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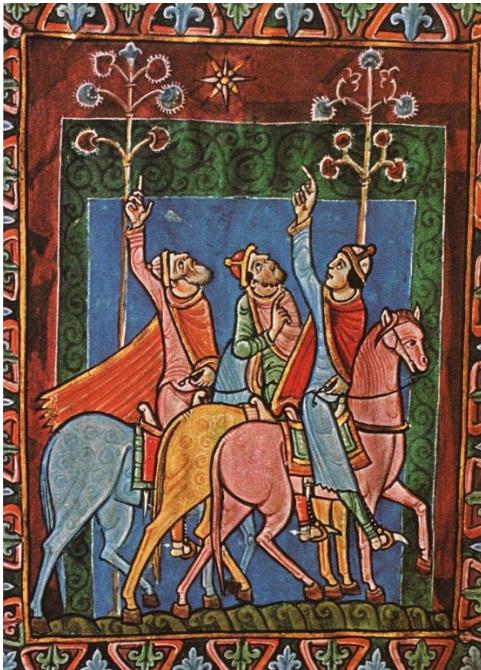
*The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop
Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen, Priest*

***“Together in Christ
we seek to love God and
to love and serve all others”***

The Epiphany of the Lord

10:00 a.m. Service

January 4, 2026



Journey of the Magi, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

Sunday Services are at 8:30 a.m. (Traditional Rite)

10:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

Office Hours Mon to Thurs 9:00-Noon

Online Bible Study Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

If you are new to our parish, please identify yourself to the sidespersons or priest so we can welcome you and tell you about our church.

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth, and reconciliation.

The Reverend Doctor Canon John Steele preaches & presides.

This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending this morning, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.

Please have your electronic devices on silent mode during the service.

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Book of Alternative Services, p. 185**

*Lay Eucharistic Minister is Paul Francoeur
Sidespeople Rose Chandler & Jose Perena Pratt
Ministry of the Chalice – Rob Taylor & Lydia French
Director of Music is Nell Howard*

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and xʷsepsəm nations, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants, and animals, through the many generations. As we meet today, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years — the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Opening Hymn: CP 139 The First Nowell

Sentence of the Day: We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.

Collect of the Day: Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Keith Denford

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14 (Pg. 797)

Paul Francoeur

Give the king your justice, O God, * **and your righteousness to the king's son;**

That he may rule your people righteously * **and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * **and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; * **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * **from one generation to another.**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * **like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; * **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, * **and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him, * **and all the nations do him service.**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, * **and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; * **he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, * **and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Janet Denford

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able for the Gradual Hymn.)

Gradual Hymn: CP 158 Earth Has Many a Noble City

(Please remain standing for the Gospel reading)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Dr. Canon John Steele

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel. '" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Canon John Steele

The Nicene Creed: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, **the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.** We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: **188** Holy Eucharist by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the

dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People:

Sue Hamblin

(Please be seated for the prayers)

Each petition will end with – Lord, in your mercy.

Please respond with – **Hear our prayer.**

Confession & Absolution:

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving. In silence we call to mind our sins.

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

-From A New Zealand Prayer Book

(Please stand as you are able for the Peace)

The Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you!

All are warmly welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. If you prefer not to receive communion but to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. Please leave your communion glasses in the bowls on the left and right as you return to your seat.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

Offertory Hymn: VU 87 I Am the Light of the World

Author: Jim Strathdee (1969) © 1969 Desert Flower Music

Refrain: "I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.

The work of Christmas is begun: **[R]**

To find the lost and lonely one, to heal that broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below the sky above! **[R]**

To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
to see Gods children everywhere. **[R]**

To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart, and sing to the colours of the earth! **[R]**

Prayer over the Gifts: Gracious God, **accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer #2 (BAS Pg. 196):

The Sanctus:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might adored,
Heaven and earth are shining bright with the glory of your light.
Loud hosannas now we sing! In the highest may they ring!
Blessed is the Coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son.
Glory in the highest! Holy God, your name be blessed!

Lord's Prayer:

Music by Gordon Light © Common Cup Company

Our Father in heaven, hallow'd be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heav'n. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours; now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Communion:

Communion Anthem: A Light is Gleaming Sung by Choir

Johann Rist (1641)

(Please stand as you are able for the Prayer after Communion)

Prayer after Communion: God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.

Doxology: Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Shared Ministry:

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Sending out of Lay Eucharistic Visitors:

In the name of God and of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in Christ's body and blood.

We being many, are one body, because we all share in the one bread.

May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in the community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing:

Commissioning Hymn: MV 209 Go, Make a Difference

© 1997, Steve Agrisano and Tom Tomaszek

Refrain: Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world. Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see the love of God for you and me.

We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.

Go make a diff'rence in the world. **[R]**

We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need, the face of God for all to see.

We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.

Go make a diff'rence in the world. **[R]**

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.

Go make a diff'rence in the world. And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.

Go make a diff'rence in the world. **[R]**

Commissioning:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ!

20 + C + M + B + 23



Epiphany House Blessing

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK

It has been a Church tradition to bless chalk at the Epiphany services, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home for the New Year. The home blessing can be done as follows: Use the blessed chalk to write: 20+C+M+B+23 above the doorways: 2023 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi – Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar – but, more importantly, for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, Latin for “May Christ Bless this House.”

As you are writing, pray one of the following prayers: May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Or

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please collect your piece of chalk (blessed) at the back of the church.

INTERCESSIONS

TODAY WE PRAY

We pray for The Church of the Province of Central Africa.

*We pray for our Primate Shane, John our Metropolitan,
Anna our Bishop, and Ingrid our Priest.*

In the Western Peninsula & Gulf Islands region for Pender and Saturna Islands.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*We pray for those who have asked for our prayers and for those we know and love,
especially Steve, Alan, Frank, Jim, John, Tina, Jenny, Beth, Mike, Trevor, Barb, Larry,
Jim, Geoff & Kim, David, Cena, Kathy, Susan, Kathy, Jim, Wayne, Neil, Christopher,
Dianne, Brandon, Jo, and the residents and staff of The Priory.*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Looking for members of our new social media team! - This year, our 40th Anniversary, is an important year for the Church of the Advent. We are taking the opportunity to strengthen our social media campaign on Facebook and expand it to Instagram.

Caroline DeCiantis, our parish administrator, manages the posting of parish events on social media and on our website. She needs information six weeks in advance of the event.

Shaena Wallace, our Communications Ministry Liaison and Sr. Ingrid manage the overall strategy for social media, and recently, Shyju Shabu has joined the team to manage the social media accounts. Thank you, Shyju! We're looking for another one or two people to share the load with him. This should not take more than an hour a month in total, with quarterly zoom team meetings.

Are you Gen X, Millennial or Gen Z? Interested in raising the profile of our parish on Social Media? Contact Sr. Ingrid at iandersen@bc.anglican.ca

Celebration Dinners to welcome new Royal Roads students - Church of the Advent is planning two themed potluck meals next year to welcome the new Royal Roads University students to Colwood. The campus does not permit the advertising of religious services, and this is the best way to introduce new students to our welcoming community.

Feb 28 - Celebration of International Black Cuisine - We're looking for people to volunteer to make the foods of the African diaspora - Caribbean, African, Cajun and many others. February is Black History Month.

Sept 19th - Celebration of Asian Cuisine - We're looking for people to volunteer to make foods from the vast range of Asian cultures: East (Chinese, Japanese, Korean), Southeast (Thai, Vietnamese, Filipino, Indonesian), South (Indian, Pakistani), Central (Uzbek, Kazakh), and Middle Eastern (Turkish, Lebanese)

How can you help to welcome new students?

- Would you like to help cook food?
- Can you offer recipes?
- Can you help to organise?

We need a small team to manage these two events. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Terry Mikkonen, the Fellowship Ministry Liaison, at tlmikko@gmail.com. February is around the corner, so we'd like to set up the team soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec 26-Jan 12 Sr. Ingrid away on holidays
Jan 7 Community Coffee Social, 9:30 am
Jan 10 Celebration of life for Dietrich Rodwoski, Hall, 2 pm
Jan 11 Morning Prayer led by Terry Mikkonen, 10 am (no 8:30)
Jan 14 Ladies Guild Mtg, 1:30 pm
Jan 15 Bible Study (online) resumes, 6 pm
Jan 18 Jazz Vespers, 7 pm
Jan 20 Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm
Jan 24 Spanish Service & Potluck, 6 pm
Jan 25 8:30 Breakfast
Jan 28 Ladies Guild Lunch, Noon
Jan 29 Prayer Shawl Mtg, 10 am, St. John's Rm